

MEDIA ADVISORY
PERMISSIVE DIALING IN FINAL STAGES IN 816 AND 913 AREA CODES

Jefferson City (November 3, 1999)--Telephone customers residing in the Kansas City metropolitan area in Missouri (816) and Kansas (913) are reminded that the permissive dialing period for 10-digit local calling between the 816 and 913 area codes is near an end. Telecommunications companies are on schedule and **mandatory dialing will begin on and after December 4, 1999**. Once mandatory dialing begins, customers must dial ten-digits (the area code plus the seven digit telephone number) for that local call to go through.

This decision will not affect what is currently a local call or a toll call. A local call today will continue to be a local call under this decision. A toll call today will continue to be a toll call under this decision. **However, if a customer in Overland Park, Kansas (913 area code) places a call to Kansas City, Missouri (816 area code), the caller will be required to dial 10-digits to complete that call (the area code plus the number). It will still be a local call.**

In an effort to extend the life of the 816 and 913 area codes in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Missouri Public Service Commission approved a telecommunications industry plan supported by the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission in May which eliminates protected codes for the 816 and 913 area codes. This plan also received approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

As a result, thousands of telephone numbers will be freed up for use in both area codes. In addition, seven-digit dialing will be retained for all local calling within the 816 and within the 913 area codes. Local calling between the 816 and 913 area codes (over state lines) will require 10-digit dialing (the area code plus the number).

Permissive dialing in the affected area began in early June and will end on December 4, 1999. During the permissive dialing period, customers are encouraged to begin using ten-digit dialing (the area code plus the number) for local calls between the 816 and 913 area codes. Once

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mandatory dialing begins on and after December 4, 1999, ten-digit dialing will have to be used for a local call between the 816 and 913 area codes for that call to go through.

In Missouri, protected codes in the 314 area code and the adjoining 618 area code in Illinois were eliminated in 1993. Customers now dial 10-digits for local calls across state lines.

According to a telecommunications industry report submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission, protected codes restrict the available NXX codes (the first three numbers of your seven digit telephone number) for assignment in each area code's local calling scope since the same NXX's are not issued in the same calling scope of the area codes (As an example, a 635 NXX or prefix assigned in the Missouri 816 area code of the Kansas City metropolitan area cannot be assigned in the 913 area code of the Kansas side of the KC metropolitan area under the protected code, seven digit dialing status. Eliminating the protected code status would allow for assignment of that 635 prefix in both area codes, freeing up thousands of numbers).

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